United Nations S/PV.8005

Security Council

Seventy-second year

Provisional

8005th meeting
Tuesday, 18 July 2017, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Liu Jieyi	(China)
Members:	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Mr. Fernández Revollo
	Egypt	Mr. Moustafa
	Ethiopia	Mr. Alemu
	France	Mr. Delattre
	Italy	Mr. Biagini
	Japan	Mr. Kawamura
	Kazakhstan	Mr. Umarov
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Senegal	Mr. Seck
	Sweden	Mr. Vaverka
	Ukraine	Mr. Yelchenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Hickey
	United States of America	Ms. Sison
	Uruguay	Mr. Rosselli

Agenda

The situation concerning Haiti

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (S/2017/604)

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17-21847 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation concerning Haiti

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (S/2017/604)

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Haiti, Mexico and Peru to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Ms. Sandra Honoré Braithwaite, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Guillaume Dabouis, Head of the Political Section of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2017/604, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti.

I now give the floor to Ms. Honoré Braithwaite.

Ms. Honoré Braithwaite: I would like to express my gratitude to the People's Republic of China for convening today's meeting on Haiti in its capacity as President of the Security Council.

(*spoke in French*)

I take this opportunity to welcome the presence of the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Haiti.

(*spoke in Spanish*)

I would also like in particular to thank all of those countries that contribute troops and police personnel to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), as well as all the Member States that work in partnership with Haiti in the process of consolidating stability in Haiti.

(*spoke in English*)

A little less than three months before the closure of MINUSTAH and the transition to a smaller peacekeeping mission — the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) — Haiti remains on the path towards stabilization and democratic consolidation.

As I highlighted during my previous briefing (see S/PV.7920), the near-completion of the electoral cycle earlier this year has opened up political space for the new Government to start addressing the many challenges facing the country, using this unique opportunity to tackle the root causes of instability, poverty, exclusion and impunity. Since then, initial steps aimed at overcoming longstanding problems in the areas of governance, the rule of law and socioeconomic development have been taken.

The Administration, under President Jovenel Moïse and Prime Minister Jack Guy Lafontant, has reiterated the President's campaign promise to transform and modernize the State to better meet the needs of the people and fulfil their rights and to embark on an institutional reform process involving all sectors of society. To that end, a Government programme was adopted that is built around priorities in security, justice, energy, education, health, agriculture and decentralization, with an emphasis on accountability and transparency as well as the fight against corruption, a condition sine qua non for the restoration of trust between the citizens and the State as well as for economic growth and human development.

While these commitments have yet to be further nurtured by concrete measures, the executive has launched its flagship development programme, the "Caravane du changement" initiative, in five of Haiti's 10 departments, so as to enhance the State's service delivery and improve the living conditions of the population, primarily in rural areas. The programme is considered to be the backbone of the Government's economic growth and development strategy and is centred on the revitalization of agricultural production and investment in public infrastructure, with a view to increasing market access and improving basic social services.

In this post-electoral climate, with political polarization significantly reduced and in the context

of an improved relationship between the executive and the legislature, a joint legislative agenda was adopted, for the first time in 10 years. This has set the stage for strengthened collaboration between these two branches of power, which is necessary for the implementation of the ambitious reform agenda. Furthermore, the Government has started to take difficult decisions and reduced the State subsidy on petroleum and gasoline, aiming at decreasing fiscal pressure and opening the space for other public investments, while Parliament has commenced the review of key legislation to improve the investment climate, reinforce governance structures and restore State institutions.

Looking ahead, for the country to make full use of the window of opportunity that emerged following the electoral process, additional measures will be needed to consolidate the security and stabilization gains of the past few years, create greater social and political cohesion and truly reinforce State institutions so that they can meet the needs of the Haitian people.

In this respect, I am encouraged by President Moïse's campaign pledge to launch a broad-based national dialogue with the objective of forging a common vision for progress and to articulate an institutional reform agenda with priorities that address the most pressing socioeconomic and political challenges. Such a dialogue process would require comprehensive action by all actors, including State institutions, political parties, the private sector and civil society, to establish a forward-looking agenda able to deliver tangible results. I am also encouraged by the calls from a broad cross-section of Haitian society for reforms to simplify the electoral cycle, establish a permanent electoral council and strengthen legal oversight bodies, among other things, with a view to stabilizing the country's democratic institutions and reforming its governance.

With regard to institutional strengthening and reforms, I wish to reiterate my call on all actors, executive and legislature, to move swiftly to fully restore the judiciary and bolster its independence through the filling of key positions, as a first step, without further delay. It is troubling that the third branch of power has still not been brought to full functioning. Key positions in the Office of the Ombudsperson and the constitutional council have also to be filled as a matter of priority in order to foster the rule of law and the enjoyment of human rights. The absence of tangible progress in the field of the rule of law has negative impacts on people's lives and their human rights, on the investment climate and on economic growth. It is in this context that I repeat my plea for resolute action to finally modernize the penal system through the adoption of the criminal code and the criminal procedure code, both now before Parliament.

Without a properly functioning justice system, the Haitian National Police (HNP) cannot effectively deliver security for all Haitian citizens, and domestic and international investments in the national police force will not develop to their full potential.

As the national police grows in strength and performance, all efforts must aim to create the necessary framework for the effective delivery of justice and the rule of law. This includes the State's responsibility to guarantee and preserve the apolitical and independent character of both the judiciary and the national police. It also includes the need for continued prioritization by the Government of institutional development and the professionalization of the national police. The provision of adequate financial resources for the police and for the prisons administration for the implementation of the 2017-2021 HNP strategic development plan will serve as one indicator of the Government's commitment to achieving this goal, amid its determination to reconstitute a national defence force.

While the security situation remains relatively stable, including in the areas from which MINUSTAH has withdrawn its troops during the last three months, the resolute implementation of the reforms and plans for inclusive dialogue is all the more important so as to sustainably consolidate the gains registered thus far and pave the way for the transition from MINUSTAH to MINUJUSTH.

Ultimately, Haiti's security, political, social and development agenda can be shaped only by the national authorities and the Haitian people themselves, and the responsibility for the further consolidation of the stabilization gains rests with the Haitian people. Much-needed donor support can assist and complement Haitian-led efforts where needed and desired. In this context, I commend the Government of Haiti for the leadership demonstrated to set the development agenda and reinvigorate the aid-coordination architecture. This continuous leadership will be indispensable to translate the Government's vision into action and to align donor support behind clearly articulated strategies and deliverables.

With this in mind, MINUSTAH's drawdown and transition process have been designed, in close coordination with the national authorities, to ensure a progressive and orderly transfer of security and civilian tasks to the State institutions. As MINUSTAH transitions to MINUJUSTH with its specific focus on the rule of law, police development and human rights, a joint United Nations country team-MINUSTAH transition plan has been brought to near-completion. The plan has identified residual stabilization needs and priority areas for the continued engagement of MINUJUSTH, the United Nations country team and the donor community, as peacekeeping in Haiti disengages from certain areas, including decentralization, border management, juvenile justice and certain specialized policing areas.

As MINUSTAH continues the implementation of its integrated drawdown plan until the Mission's closure, on 15 October, and ensures an orderly transition of core mandates to MINUJUSTH, the partnership of the international community with Haiti as well as continued and coordinated support for Haiti's reform agenda will be critical.

I therefore thank all of Haiti's international partners and friends for remaining steadfast in their financial and political support to Haiti and for the their belief in the country's ability to lay foundations for lasting change, sustainable development and stability that benefits all segments of the society. It is in that spirit that I call on Haiti's partners to continue optimizing their support for the Haitian authorities and the Haitian people to fully seize the opportunity that they themselves have created.

Lastly, I wish to thank all my colleagues in MINUSTAH and the United Nations country team for their dedication and commitment during this demanding period of change for Haiti and the United Nations system in the country.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Ms. Honoré Braithwaite for her briefing.

I shall now give the floor to the members of the Security Council.

Ms. Sison (United States of America): I thank Special Representative Honoré Braithwaite for her briefing, which together with the Secretary-General's report (S/2017/604) clearly outlines that the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) is successfully on the path to closing and that the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) is on track to replace it by 16 October.

I would like to begin by recognizing Special Representative Honoré Braithwaite, as well as the troop- and police-contributing countries, for their support to the United Nations mission over the past 13 years. Thanks to their leadership and the dedication of the men and women serving in MINUSTAH, Haiti has made strides towards democracy and stability.

First, I would like to underscore the importance of a smooth transition between the two missions, MINUSTAH and MINUJUSTH. We are pleased to hear that good progress had already been made. To date, half of the military component and one of the 11 police units have withdrawn from Haiti without incident. In fact, there has been a reported decrease in the levels of criminality and civil protests. We applaud the transfer of tasks from the military to the Haitian National Police in the northern part of the country and in some of the most security-sensitive areas of Port-au-Prince. We also commend the transfer of tasks from MINUSTAH to the host Government and the United Nations country team.

Secondly, I want to emphasize that the work begun by MINUSTAH is not over yet. MINUJUSTH's core mission will include the rule of law and police development, as well as human rights. The entire justice system, including corrections and the judiciary, needs significant reform, and focusing on the rule of law is especially critical at this juncture. As the police and the judiciary go hand in hand, strengthening the capacity of both sectors is necessary to entrench the rule of law in Haiti and to address such urgent challenges as high pre-trial detention rates and prison overcrowding. We also call for increased attention to Haiti's economic situation and challenges related to humanitarian and disaster preparedness, which should be prioritized so that Haiti is prepared for the next crisis.

The United States stands ready to assist however it can. We have been one of Haiti's strongest international partners for more than 30 years. Together with the Government of Haiti and the international community, we continue to support the strengthening of Haiti's overall security, democratic development and economic growth.

Mr. Umarov (Kazakhstan): I thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Honoré Braithwaite for her comprehensive briefing. We warmly

recall our visit to Haiti last month and appreciate her help in facilitating it.

We acknowledge the very timely mission of the Security Council to Haiti, which provided us the unique opportunity to witness first-hand the achievements of the country made thus far despite the serious obstacles that it has faced in terms of political instability and two major national disasters. We were able to demonstrate the unified solidarity and support of the Security Council to the Government and to the resilient people of Haiti to strengthen their country and institutions.

Kazakhstan welcomes the many positive developments in Haiti in recent months, including building institutional and political stability, such as the completion of the first 100 days of the new administration, President Moïse's flagship "Caravane du changement" initiative and the joint legislative agenda comprising 51 draft laws aimed at improving the business climate, reinforcing State functions and ensuring better territorial planning. The adoption of the five-year Haitian National Police (HNP) strategic development plan for the period 2017-2021 is promising and will therefore require adequate financial resources and training support from the international community.

We also acknowledge the observation by the Secretary-General in his latest report (S/2017/604) that the ongoing withdrawal of military and police components of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and the gradual transfer of tasks to the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) have been smooth and without disruption. At the same time, Haiti continues to face enormous difficulties and has yet to overcome numerous and complex challenges with regard to strengthening democracy, political institutions, the rule of law, the protection of human rights, promoting economic and social development and enhancing business investment from outside the country.

We call on the Government of Haiti to make every effort to successfully implement the HNP strategic development plan so as to ensure that adequate security arrangements be put in place, in particular in those geographical and functional areas from which MINUSTAH troops and police have withdrawn.

The issue of cholera in Haiti must remain at the centre of the United Nations focus. We welcome the fact that the intensified cholera response has resulted in a significant decline in suspected cholera cases. In that regard, Kazakhstan joins the Secretary-General's call to the international community and donors for voluntary contributions to the United Nations Haiti Cholera Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund. That could have a direct and immediate impact on saving lives in Haiti and address the suffering that so many Haitians have endured.

As MINUSTAH withdraws, we acknowledge with gratitude its committed efforts to bringing stability and peace to Haiti since its establishment in 2004. Our task for today is to prepare the ground for MINUJUSTH's mandate to advocate for constitutional, legislative, judiciary and criminal justice reform with a view to promoting human rights and protecting civilians. Haiti will need help in holding its national elections. The significantly reduced civilian staff in the new mission calls for a highly competitive selection of both national and international personnel. At the same time, the United Nations country team with the entire United Nations system and international partners will have to assume greater responsibility for peacebuilding and sustainable development tasks.

Lastly, I would like to reiterate Kazakhstan's firm commitment to supporting Haiti's efforts to peace, progress and prosperity.

Mr. Iliichev (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, Ms. Sandra Honoré Braithwaite, for her presentation of the Secretary-General's report (S/2017/604) and assessment of the situation in the country during the critical period of gradual transition from the current United Nations mission to a justice support mission.

Accordingly, in April we supported the adoption of resolution 2350 (2017), taking into account the important role that the United Nations plays in stabilizing the situation in the country and the need to continue to provide assistance to the Government of Haiti. In their statements, members of the Security Council frequently emphasize the importance of transitional periods and stress that, once that stage has been completed, we can judge the effectiveness of the United Nations system and the Security Council in particular. We therefore have paid particularly close attention to the Secretary-General's report.

We note the positive assessments of the political process in the country, the establishment of a

Government, the completion of the first 100 days of the administration of President Moïse and the gradual progress in improving national criminal legislation, as well as the establishment of the Haitian National Police strategic development plan for the period 2017-2021. We take note of the view that Haiti stands ready to bear responsibility to independently address its challenges.

However, an analysis of the statistics noted in the report during the reporting period in connection with violations and the number of operations conducted by Blue Helmets and Berets indicates the need for a steadfast focus on security issues. The Mission, the Secretariat and the Security Council are faced with the challenge of ensuring that the planned reforms do not generate a security vacuum. Consequently, the gradual drawdown of the military and police contingents and troop levels needs to be done in a very cautious manner. There must be certainty that the Government is in a position to independently and fully guarantee security and tranquillity for the Haitian people.

The second half of the report focuses on the transition from the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) to the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti. Once again, we would like to highlight what we referred to in April when resolution 2350 (2017) was adopted (see S/PV.7924). In recent years, the Security Council has firmly advocated having mission mandates be as comprehensible, explicit and obtainable as possible. That was the premise as we worked on resolution 2350 (2017). Ultimately, the resolution explicitly stipulates that the Council "[r]ecognizes the ownership and primary responsibility of the Government and the people of Haiti". This is also referred to in paragraph 6, which focuses on the mandate of the Mission established. It states that the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti "shall be mandated to assist the Government of Haiti".

In that context, we noted that the wording, which focuses on the work of the future Mission is somewhat vague and it may be interpreted in a way to suggest that the Mission has certain independent functions and priorities that the Government must support. We will closely monitor work along those lines, chiefly with regard to the need to deliver good services and monitor the human rights situation. Those duties must be carried out strictly in line with the mandate handed down by the Security Council.

In conclusion, we reiterate what the Council has stated repeatedly based on experience. The effective support of the United Nations is possible only when there is trust-based cooperation with the host State as it assumes the leadership role.

Mr. Hickey (United Kingdom): I thank Special Representative Honoré Braithwaite for her briefing today. I would like to pay tribute to her and to the important work she has done during her time in Haiti. It is particularly encouraging to hear that the transition from the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) to the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) is on track.

It is important that that continue. A smooth and seamless transition will send a clear signal to the people and Government of Haiti that the United Nations relationship with Haiti has changed but our commitment has not. MINUJUSTH marks a new era in the United Nations support for Haiti. Its three-pronged focus on police, the rule of law and human rights will help Haiti to address its future opportunities and challenges independently for the first time in many decades. The successful delivery of MINUJUSTH's mission will allow it to eventually leave Haiti, having laid the framework for security and stability that Haitians can continue to build on themselves.

I know that there is a lot of work ahead, both for Haiti and the United Nations. I suspect that few of us who recently visited Haiti believe that success is guaranteed. In the weeks following the visit, I have come to believe that three fundamental conditions are required to make MINUJUSTH a success.

The first condition for success requires the new Mission to be equipped with the tools that are fit for purpose and matched to Haiti's needs. For example, to further develop the capacity of Haiti's police, the United Nations Police Commander will need officers with the right technical and language skills to engage meaningfully with their local counterparts. Another example is the United Nations country team. Joint analysis and programming with MINUJUSTH will help ensure that it is better placed to support long-term justice reform in Haiti. As the Secretary-General's most recent report (S/2017/604) rightly points out, all of the United Nations tools will need to be more politically acute if they are to catalyse change. Indeed, United Nations tools only go so far.

The second condition for success is a Government that embraces Haiti's challenges as its own and proactively takes on new responsibilities. The gap left by MINUSTAH is not primarily for its successor Mission to plug, but for Haiti's Government and institutions to fill. That means providing Haiti's police with proper equipment and salaries and not squandering those scarce resources elsewhere. As the Special Representative has outlined, it means investment in a justice system that protects all Haitians with the rule of law, leaving no space for corruption to flourish and impunity to fester. It means making critical appointments to the Supreme Court and taking urgently needed reforms through Parliament. And finally, it means doing much more to tackle the scourge of gender-based violence. All of this requires that the priorities of Haiti's politicians are aligned with those of Haiti's people.

The third condition for success is also about taking responsibility. MINUJUSTH and the whole of the United Nations must continue to win back the trust of Haiti's people. On our trip to Haiti, we heard about two issues that have damaged the United Nations legacy. One relates to cholera — a tragedy for the Haitian people and an obstacle to the United Nations turning its own page in Haiti. I am pleased to hear that infection rates are down. Eradication is within grasp, and like the Ambassador of Kazakhstan, I call on donors to do what they can to make that a reality.

The other tragic issue that has damaged the reputation of United Nations peacekeeping is the shockingly widespread sexual exploitation and abuse carried out by peacekeepers sent by the Council in the past to Haiti. Such crimes have left deep scars across the country. If we are to ask people to trust in peacekeepers and their mission, we cannot allow that to happen again — not in Haiti, not anywhere. We have agreed to a clear framework of action through resolution 2272 (2016). There can be no space for backsliding on those commitments.

In conclusion, the United Kingdom looks forward to a smooth and seamless transition over the next few months. We also hope that those three conditions: a mission equipped with the right tools, a Government ready to lead on Haiti's challenges and a people ready to trust in the United Nations again can accompany the next phase of the United Nations relationship with Haiti.

Mr. Yelchenko (Ukraine): I would like to thank Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), Sandra Honoré Braithwaite, for her briefing on the situation in the country.

Ukraine welcomes the fact that the long period of institutional instability that plagued the electoral process in Haiti appears to be behind us. Despite the significant difficulties, we are pleased that the country has returned to constitutional order, based on the will of voters.

We commend the Haitian authorities on their positive steps to restore democratic institutions and congratulate the Haitian people who, while facing many political, economic and social challenges and natural disasters have managed to bring the country back to order. We underline that the efforts of all political stakeholders should be focused on ensuring stability and security as a crucial element for further democratic consolidation. Broader unity is indispensable to achieve goals such as strengthening national human rights institutions, ensuring respect for human rights, combating criminality, sexual and gender-based violence, putting an end to impunity and providing accountability.

Ukraine commends the important role MINUSTAH has played for the past 13 years in ensuring stability and security during particularly difficult times, such as the most recently held elections or Hurricane Matthew. Its contribution to strengthening the capacity of the Haitian National Police is indispensable.

In April, the Security Council adopted resolution 2350 (2017), extending the mandate of MINUSTAH for a final six months. The resolution also outlined the legal framework for the transition to the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH). We welcome the special attention given in the recent Secretary-General's report (S/2017/604) to the planning for MINUJUSTH, in particular on the issues of the rule of law and human rights.

During its recent visit to Haiti, the Security Council reviewed the implementation of resolution 2350 (2017), focusing on the smooth transition from MINUSTAH to MINUJUSTH. The Council saw that while the security situation in this Caribbean country has improved, it is still fragile. Thus, it is important to ensure a well-prepared continuity of United Nations presence so that the mistakes of the past are not repeated.

We consider continuing work to strengthen the Haitian National Police essential. The recent report of the Secretary-General highlighted the gains made over the years in developing the capacity of the Haitian National Police. At the same time, further consolidation of those achievements is vital.

On the other hand, we would like to underline the necessity of continued efforts of the international community, multilateral agencies, Haiti's regional partners and individual States in supporting the long-term security and development of Haiti. Those actors and the United Nations national and international bodies constitute the basic three pillars supporting the country's stability.

We recognize that considerable national, regional and international efforts have been made in combating cholera. However, Haiti continues to face significant challenges that affect these efforts. In this vein, we welcome the consensus adoption on 13 July of General Assembly resolution 71/161 B, which reaffirmed support for the Organization's new approach to cholera in Haiti, including the establishment of the United Nations Haiti Cholera Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund, and invited Member States, donors, financial institutions, the private sector and others to extend financial support for the initiative.

Taking this opportunity, we would also like to welcome the appointment of Ms. Josette Sheeran as Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Haiti. We wish her every success in the challenging task of implementing the United Nations new approach to reducing the impact of cholera in Haiti and supporting national efforts to fulfil Haiti's 2030 sustainable growth and implementation plan.

Mr. Rosselli (Uruguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the briefing he provided us on the work of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). I also thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of MINUSTAH, Ms. Sandra Honoré Braithwaite, for her briefing and especially for her work and dedication.

Uruguay aligns itself with the statement that will be delivered by the Permanent Representative of Peru on behalf of the Group of friends of Haiti.

In reading this report of the Secretary-General on MINUSTAH (S/2017/604), we find much to be heartened by and other news that continue to cause us concern. We are pleased to learn that Haiti has continued to forge ahead in strengthening its democracy and stability. It is positive that President Jovenel Moïse has put together a road map to guide the Government with a focus on security, justice, energy, education, health and agriculture and containing a strategy for decentralization. We note that the Haitian National Police has continued to boost their ability to provide security and to ensure that the law is upheld throughout the country. Moreover, we were also pleased to learn about the decrease in suspected cases of cholera and related deaths as a result of the efforts carried out by the Government of Haiti and its international partners.

We are nonetheless concerned by the fragile socioeconomic situation of the country and the vulnerability of its people. Mitigating these realities will require the Government's efforts and resources to be concentrated in the areas identified as priorities. According to the report of the Secretary-General, as of 19 May 2.35 million people in Haiti were living in a situation of severe food insecurity and more than 143,000 are suffering from acute malnutrition.

Given such enormous needs, we need to be very clear and sincere in expressing that we are seriously concerned that the Haitian authorities are even thinking about remobilizing the Haitian Armed Forces, which would clearly divert human and financial resources away from the areas that require urgent attention. Priority should be given to all those initiatives that generate direct benefits for the Haitian people and strengthen the State's institutions. The shear cost in terms of investment and operationalization of restoring these Armed Forces in Haiti at a time in which the country has so many pressing needs to deal with must not be overlooked.

We believe that energy and resources must be focused on further strengthening and training the Haitian National Police so that it can fulfil to the letter the task of ensuring national security. To date, national and international efforts have been focused on this and that must continue to be the case if we are to avoid compromising the gains achieved in the area of security over the course of the 13 years of MINUSTAH's presence. It would be regrettable if those achievements were to be undone because of tensions caused by unresolved socioeconomic problems, coupled with other weaknesses in the country's institutions, such as deficiencies in the judicial institutions and the human

rights situation. We endorse the calls made by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, by the Independent Expert of the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights in Haiti, and by civil society organizations to the Government of Haiti to establish a separate ministry for human rights.

We note that the actions carried out in the context of the withdrawal of MINUSTAH are proceeding smoothly and have not had any visible adverse impact on the general security situation in the country. Uruguay's own troops stood down on 15 April, bringing to a successful end a 13-year phase of support and assistance to Haiti and its people on the ground, which began with the establishment of MINUSTAH in 2004. Today, our objective is to keep our hard-won gains and improve the general situation of the country by seeking out other possible avenues for cooperation.

The adoption of the transition plan between MINUSTAH and the United Nations country team, which identifies priority needs and objectives for Haiti, reflects the planning work carried out in order to ensure the orderly handover from MINUSTAH to the new Mission. As far as plans for the organization and operationalization of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH), the report of Secretary-General provides us with a wealth of information thereon, demonstrating the professionalism of the work the United Nations is carrying out in consultation with the Haitian authorities.

The mandate of the new Mission will entail assisting the Government of Haiti in strengthening the institutions of the rule of law; supporting and strengthening the Haitian National Police; and monitoring, reporting and analysing the human rights situation, thereby addressing the current needs in Haiti. MINUJUSTH will only be successful in its mandate if it enjoys the full support of the Haitian authorities.

Mr. Moustafa (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, allow me to thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Ms. Sandra Honoré Braithwaite for her comprehensive briefing. We greatly appreciate her efforts and the relentless work of her team of civilians, military and police to promote long-term stability in Haiti. We witnessed these efforts clearly during the most recent Security Council visit to Haiti.

Egypt welcomes the progress in promoting democracy and security in Haiti, especially with regard to the endorsement by the Parliament, on 22 March, of the Prime Minister and the new Cabinet, as well as the most recent results of local elections, which were recently held in Haiti. We hope that the return of Haiti to constitutional order and the full reactivation of its executive and legislative branches will promote political and institutional stability and increase the country's ability to overcome urgent challenges.

Despite progress at the political and institutional levels, Haiti continues to face many serious challenges on several fronts, starting with the difficult economic situation and the numerous humanitarian and security challenges, especially with the ongoing cholera outbreak in the country, as well as the weak rule of law institutions and national police. In that regard, we believe it important for the United Nations to continue to play an effective and vital role in Haiti until the building of national institutions is complete, and to help Haiti to enhance its capacities with a view to optimally shouldering its responsibilities. That will help prevent Haiti from relapsing into a new crisis with new humanitarian, security and political complications that might require international intervention once again.

Moreover, we believe it is imperative for the international community to work together to support Haiti and mobilize efforts to promote the capacities of State institutions during this critical turning point so that Haiti can turn a new page towards a more prosperous and stable future. Therefore we have supported the calls to review the work of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), to close it down and adopt a new approach for a United Nations presence in Haiti by establishing a new United Nations mission — the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) — that is better able to meet the needs of the country. It must focus on the police and rule of law components.

It is therefore important to work to prevent any setbacks in the transitional period the closure of MINUSTAH and the deployment of MINUJUSTH. In that connection, we welcome the latest report of the Secretary-General (S/2017/604), as well as ongoing efforts to withdraw the military and police components of MINUSTAH in a way that does not affect — and thus far has not affected — the broader security situation in the country. In that regard, as MINUJUSTH takes on its mandate in October and in the light of our conclusions from the Council's valuable field visit to Haiti last month under the presidency of Bolivia, we would like to make the following five observations.

First of all, we stress the importance that the new United Nations mission mandate be limited to the building of Haitian national institutions, especially rule-of-law institutions and the Haitian National Police, in line with the national priorities and needs set by the Haitian Government, without any non-traditional or successor mandate.

Secondly, we attach special importance to the cholera outbreak in Haiti, especially as the United Nations bears a moral and legal responsibility to support the Haitian authorities in combating the epidemic. Therefore, the expected United Nations presence in Haiti must enjoy the necessary capacities to fight the outbreak. We welcome the report's reference to the appointment of Ms. Josette Sheeran as the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Haiti, to guide the implementation of the United Nations approach to cholera and to support national efforts to implementation the Sustainable Development Goals in Haiti. We also call for the provision of the necessary funding for fighting and ending this epidemic.

Thirdly, the capacities of the United Nations country team must be enhanced so that it can meet the future needs of Haiti and can focus on infrastructure development; the promotion of vocational training, education and health services; and the creation of a legislative environment conducive to foreign and domestic private sector investment, especially in the agriculture and tourism sectors. Such initiatives will give rise to job opportunities for tens of thousands of young people and promote the empowerment of women.

Fourthly, we must also firmly and seriously address the accusations of sexual abuse by MINUSTAH because during the Council's latest visit to Haiti, we listened to their national concerns on that issue. We sensed their bitterness at us not having addressed those cases and understand the situation's potential impact on the reputation and credibility of the United Nations.

Finally, as the peacekeeping era in Haiti draws to a close, supporting the efforts of building and sustaining peace must be the focus of the upcoming phase of the engagement of the United Nations and the international community in Haiti, especially in the light of a clear national vision of priorities that requires coordination among the different components of that engagement.

In conclusion, let me take this opportunity to express our full support to the people and the Government of Haiti. We have full trust in the ability of its elected Government and people to overcome this critical phase and open a new chapter of development, prosperity and conclusion in its region.

Mr. Kawamura (Japan): I would like to thank Ms. Sandra Honoré Braithwaite, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, for her comprehensive briefing today. We commend Haiti's efforts to consolidate democracy, restore constitutional order and promote stability, as well as the contribution of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) to that end.

In order to ensure the successful implementation of MINUSTAH's mission and, above all, to support Haiti's reconstruction efforts, Japan is proud to have contributed to MINUSTAH, especially after the earthquake in 2010. The Security Council's visit was timely given the inauguration of the new Government and the transition of the United Nations presence. The visit provided us with a clear understanding of the reality on the ground and enabled us to demonstrate the continued United Nations support of the Haitian people. It also offered an opportunity to encourage Haitian efforts to further consolidate national unity and build a resilient and more prosperous society.

Japan is well aware that the smooth transition from MINUSTAH to the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) is essential. We look forward to a continued responsible transfer of tasks to MINUJUSTH, along with a greatly expanded role for the United Nations country team. We welcome the Secretary-General's vision for implementing MINUJUSTH's mandate and designing a strategy for gradual transition to local institutions, as outlined in his most recent report (S/2017/604). Japan strongly hopes that MINUJUSTH will further strengthen police and justice institutions as foundations for the stability and development of the country.

During our visit, we witnessed the positive results of the close cooperation between MINUSTAH and the Government of Haiti on strengthening the Haitian National Police (HNP). Challenges remain, however, including the ability of the Haitian National Police to respond to large-scale violence; border controls; the need for police stations and related facilities; and ongoing rule-of-law issues. We hope that the Government will focus on those priority security areas in partnership with the international community.

Another area of concern is public health. Cholera was mentioned by everyone, including the President, during the Council's visit. Since 2010, Japan has contributed more than $9 million through UNICEF and other international organizations in order to combat cholera. We are prepared to continue our support, especially on preventive socioeconomic measures such as poverty reduction and improving resilient infrastructure, with a focus on water, sanitation and hygiene. Japan will also continue to support post-disaster reconstruction in Haiti as well as development and the improvement of basic social services. While the main focus of the United Nations Mission is undergoing changes, our support to the people of Haiti should and will remain steadfast.

Mr. Alemu (Ethiopia): We would like to thank Special Representative Sandra Honoré Braithwaite for her briefing and for her admirable contribution to the work of the United Nations and to stress how much we appreciate her efforts. The mission was well executed.

We welcome the report of the Secretary-General (S/2017/604), which notes the steady progress that Haiti has made in consolidating its institutional and political stability. In that regard, the adoption of a Government road map that emphasizes accountability and transparency while at the same time fighting corruption is indeed encouraging. The Special Representative rightly underlined that aspect earlier. A joint legislative agenda to be followed by both the executive branch and the legislature will also be a significant element in strengthening their collaboration in implementing the reforms outlined by President Jovenel Moïse. We also support his goal of moving forward with a broad-based national dialogue to forge a common vision around reform priorities that address the most pressing social, economic and political challenges, and we agree with the Secretary-General on the need for the inclusion of electoral reform in this agenda in order to strengthen the national capacity to administer elections in the country.

Ethiopia also welcomes the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General for full restoration of the independence of the judiciary in order to consolidate Haiti's democracy and continued development.

Haiti remains relatively stable, but it certainly needs long-term support to address its vulnerability and economic fragility. We join other colleagues who have called for this to be given high priority. In fact, that is why the sustained engagement of all bilateral and international partners is very much critical to secure sufficient and timely assistance for the sustainable development of Haiti.

The Security Council mission to Haiti last month was indeed a demonstration of the continued engagement of the United Nations, and we are pleased to have participated in this important mission. We would like to seize this opportunity to express our appreciation to Bolivia for its role and leadership. The significance of the United Nations presence and transition to the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti to the country's stability, development and institutional consolidation in the area of the rule of law, police and human rights is indeed paramount.

We are encouraged to note the reduction in the number of suspected cases of death from cholera in recent months in Haiti despite the impact of Hurricane Matthew last year. However, the limited resources that have been made available to fund the cholera response is a matter of concern. The new approach of the United Nations to deal with this issue should be supported to respond to the needs of the people of Haiti, and to the victims of the cholera outbreak and their families in particular. That is all the more appropriate, fair and just in the light of the responsibility that the United Nations has, as indicated by the representative of Egypt when he took the floor.

Finally, I would like to express our appreciation to Ms. Honoré Braithwaite again for her significant contribution to Haiti's stability, as well as to all departing the civilian staff of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and uniformed personnel for their steadfast commitment in achieving the Mission's mandate. Ethiopia, as one of the police-contributing countries to MINUSTAH, is pleased to have made a very modest contribution to those efforts.

Mr. Delattre (France) (*spoke in French*): Let me begin by thanking the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti, Ms. Sandra Honoré Braithwaite, for her very enlightening briefing, as well as for her contribution and that of her teams to the stabilization of Haiti.

I associate myself with the statements that will be made by the observer of the European Union, as well as by the representative of Peru on behalf of the Group of Friends of Haiti.

France welcomed the adoption of resolution 2350 (2017), which formally acknowledges the closure of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) by October 15, and establishes a new mission focused on the issues of police, the rule of law and human rights. That decision, which was made unanimously by the Council, is essential. More than 13 years after the establishment of MINUSTAH, it was time to formally acknowledge the successes of the mission in stabilizing Haiti and to move towards a new form of United Nations presence more adapted to the needs of the country and the conditions on the ground, which have evolved considerably and in a favourable direction.

As underlined in the Secretary-General's report (S/2017/604), the work of MINUSTAH in recent years has been essential to getting Haiti out of the emergency situation in which the country found itself even just recently. It has made it possible to restore a general climate of relative security, participated in the reconstruction efforts after the terrible earthquake of 2010 and contributed to the significant firming up of the Haitian National Police, the increasing strength of which is a guarantee of stability for Haiti. That is a collective success, which, naturally, is due in great part to Haitians themselves. However, we must also give credit to the United Nations, the Council, as well as to the troop-contributing countries, without which this Mission could not play its role.

The new United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti, which will begin operations in October, should consolidate the progress achieved. It should make the Haitian National Police an autonomous actor, but also undertake major new projects in the area of the rule of law, such as the fight against impunity, the strengthening of professionalism and the independence of the judiciary, as well as the establishment of a prison system that is compatible with the needs of the country and the requirements in terms of respect for the rights of prisoners. The human rights situation, which remains a source of concern, should also be closely monitored, with regular recommendations made. This last component seems indispensable to robust and effective peacekeeping, and is therefore inseparable from the rest of the activities of the next mission. The commitment of Haitian authorities will naturally be essential to ensuring the success of the Mission.

France has long called on the Council to shoulder its responsibilities with respect to the question of Haiti, by making the necessary decisions to ensure that the engagement of the United Nations on the ground remains as appropriate and effective as possible over time. It is now done, and we are very glad of it. This new essential step does not mean the end of the commitment of the United Nations alongside Haiti. On the contrary, it demonstrates the Council's ability to continually adjust how the United Nations is involved on the ground, with the main concern of responding to the needs of the populations concerned. It also marks the establishment of a more responsive and powerful tool at the service of Haiti and Haitians, the success of which depends on maintaining our collective commitment. In that framework, the fight against the terrible cholera epidemic must of course continue to bring us together.

We believe that it is also essential — and this is a crucial point — to help Haiti move from a logic of assistance to one of sustainable development. That is the priority. That will be the mission of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti, in conjunction with the country team. The latter will also have an important role to play in future developments.

I would like to conclude by paying tribute once again to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ms. Sandra Honoré Braithwaite, as well as to all MINUSTAH personnel for their exemplary commitment to peace and security in Haiti.

Mr. Vaverka (Sweden): I associate myself with the statement that will be delivered by the observer of the European Union later today.

Let me join others in thanking the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti, Ms. Sandra Honoré Braithwaite, for her comprehensive briefing to the Council, and for her invaluable work, as well as that of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), in that country.

Her briefing and the report of the Secretary-General (S/2017/604) underline the progress made in the consolidation of democracy and stability in Haiti. The restoration of constitutional order, with the inauguration of Jovenel Moïse as President, and the formation of a Government under Prime Minister Jack Guy Lafontant, is indeed a milestone that has opened a window of opportunity for the future of Haiti.

Building a better future for Haiti will take time and continued determination. In addition to the progress made on the judicial track, further judicial reform,

including fighting corruption and impunity, improving access to justice and penal reform, will be crucial to Haiti's socioeconomic development. These efforts will also create better conditions for private investment. Strengthening the rule of law, respect for human rights and further strengthening the Haitian National Police force must therefore remain top priorities. Delivering on the expectations of the Haitian people will require an inclusive process in which all actors, including national authorities, political parties, civil society and the private sector, work together to deliver the necessary reforms. Women have a key role to play. Their full, equal and effective participation is particularly important.

MINUSTAH has played a significant role in supporting the progress we are now seeing in Haiti. Its institutional memory and key resources need to be used strategically during the transition period and beyond. It is particularly important that MINUSTAH's work on gender mainstreaming and against sexual and gender-based violence not be lost in the transition process. Therefore, it is essential that a strategic focus, coordination and budget for gender issues be maintained and that adequate reporting on these matters take place. We commend the Secretary-General for the many examples of work on gender and sexual and gender-based violence in the report.

As Haiti moves forward into this new phase in its development, the partnership between the Government, bilateral donors and the United Nations must also evolve. It is essential that the United Nations deliver as one in its support for national efforts. The Global Focal Point for Police, Justice and Corrections Areas in the Rule of Law in Post-Conflict and Other Crisis Situations could continue to play an important role in coordinating the efforts of the United Nations in this regard. In addition, an integrated and joined-up United Nations presence in Haiti — during and after the transition — will be needed to address the risks and drivers of instability. This includes efforts to reduce social inequality, help spur economic growth and strengthen trust in institutions.

Adequate planning for the successor mission to MINUSTAH, including for the handover to the United Nations country team and on how that country team should best be configured, will be critical. Planning should take place in the spirit of the agenda on sustaining peace and with a focus on long-term, inclusive development.

While the Secretary-General reports that Haiti appears to be on a steady path towards institutional and political stability, it is important that the United Nations and the Security Council in particular remain ready to support this process. As the needs in the country change, we will need to consider how best to use the different instruments in the United Nations toolbox to ensure peace and security and achieve sustainable peace and development.

I join others in acknowledging the concerns pertaining to cholera and sexual exploitation and abuse related to the United Nations presence in Haiti that were raised during the Council's recent visit. We welcome the intensified cholera response, which has resulted in a significant decline in suspected cholera cases. We were happy to co-sponsor General Assembly resolution 71/161 B, in support of the Secretary-General's new approach to eradicating cholera and building resilience in Haiti.

We also welcome the efforts to strengthen protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and the outreach efforts described in the report. Zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse for all peacekeeping and United Nations staff, uniformed as well as civilian, should be the only acceptable benchmark. Victims need to be protected, assisted and provided with the necessary rehabilitation, while perpetrators must be brought to justice.

To conclude, the progress that Haiti has seen could not have been achieved without the resilience, strength and determination of the Haitian people. Sweden will remain a committed partner for Haiti as it continues with this new chapter in its development.

Mr. Seck (Senegal) (*spoke in French*): The Senegalese delegation would like at the outset to thank the Chinese presidency for having convened this important debate on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). My thanks go also to Ms. Sandra Honoré Braithwaite, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of MINUSTAH, for her excellent briefing on the situation in Haiti.

It is my pleasure to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the key role played by the Group of Friends of Haiti, which, effectively coordinated by Uruguay, has been able to mobilize the international community in supporting Haiti.

At a time when MINUSTAH is moving towards its close, the Senegalese delegation would like to pay the Special Representative and all Mission staff well-deserved tribute for their work on behalf of the Haitian people during some of the worst times in their long history.

From 22 to 24 June, that is, two months after the adoption of resolution 2350 (2017), which extended for a further final period of six months MINUSTAH's mandate and established the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH), the Council undertook, under the Bolivian presidency, a historic visit to Haiti, its first to this country, which, I would recall, is the first black republic and the first democracy in the Americas hemisphere.

During said visit, the Council was able to see for itself the remarkable progress made at the political level, with the return to constitutional order following a very successful transition, as reflected in the democratic election and investiture of President Jovenel Moïse, after several years of institutional stagnation.

Today, galvanized by President Moïse, the Government of Prime Minister Jack Guy Lafontant has set itself the lofty goal of revitalizing the key sectors of agriculture, the environment, transport, security, justice, energy, education and health, as well as carrying out decentralization efforts, in order to meet the needs of Haitians throughout the country.

All of these actions are complemented by the adoption of an ambitious joint legislative reform programme that includes 51 draft bills and is aimed at improving the business environment, strengthening the role and authority of the State and ensuring better land management, with a view to rehabilitating the damaged Haitian ecosystem.

During its aforementioned visit, the Council witnessed the commendable efforts made by the Haitian authorities to turn the economic and security situation in the country around, and also was able to take stock of the magnitude of the remaining challenges stemming from the environmental, economic and social vulnerability of the country, which is exposed on an ongoing basis to the constant threat of drought and flood. Thus the international community, in particular the United Nations, must continue to support the Haitian Government in its efforts to relaunch the economy and improve the living conditions of its people.

We must bear in mind, therefore, that in Haiti today 2.35 million people are living in a situation of food insecurity. Nor must we lose sight of the fact that cholera, although no longer as widespread as it once was, remains a threat; that infrastructure is insufficient; that the performance of judicial and administration of justice institutions must be strengthened and supported; and that residual insecurity remains a source of concern.

All of this goes a long way towards explaining the tremendous hopes that the Haitian people have pinned on MINUJUSTH, the new Mission, which we firmly hope will, in accordance with its mandate, help consolidate the rule of law through improving accountability, respect for and the promotion of human rights, the creation of a secure environment, and support for justice and the operationalization of the Haitian National Police (HNP) following the withdrawal of the military component of MINUSTAH.

MINUJUSTH alone cannot do everything, thus Haiti stands in greater need than ever of the support of its development partners.

Accordingly, my delegation welcomed the visit to Haiti by the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti of the Economic and Social Council which provided the opportunity for examining ways to strengthen the partnership between the Government and the international community with a view to supporting the country's economic recovery and development. In supporting the Secretary-General's new approach to confronting the cholera epidemic that has affected Haiti for several years, my delegation believes that that should be better addressed by the international community in close collaboration not only with the Government, but also with the victims in Haiti.

In that regard, it is worth recalling that the recent call by Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed on Member States to contribute generously to financing the Secretary General's new United Nations approach to cholera in Haiti, the cost of which is estimated at $400, but for which only $2.7 million have been received to date.

As MINUSTAH is on the verge of completing its withdrawal, the Senegalese delegation urgently calls on the international community, beginning with the United Nations system and international financial institutions, as well as the Haitian Government, to join efforts so as, on the one hand, to prevent any form of security vacuum — because despite the outstanding

work carried out by the Haitian National Police, the security and justice sectors remain vulnerable and need to be strengthened — and, on the other hand, help the country improve its resilience in the face of frequent natural disasters and lay the foundations for sustainable development.

We must succeed in the transition between MINUSTAH and MINUJUSTH in close cooperation with the United Nations country team.

Mr. Fernández Revollo (Plurinational State of Bolivia) (*spoke in Spanish*): We thank Special Representative Honoré Braithwaite for her informative briefing on the latest developments in the Republic of Haiti and on the activities of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). We take this opportunity to express our gratitude for her work at the helm of MINUSTAH.

During the visit of the Security Council to Haiti in June, President Moïse shared the vision of his Government with respect to confronting his country's principle challenges, while placing emphasis on the "Caravane du changement" initiative and the joint legislative agenda, and expressed his desire that the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) be reclassified under Chapter VI, instead of Chapter VII, of the Charter of the United Nations. Bolivia supports Haiti's request and emphasizes the need to change the mandate of the new mission under Chapter VI of the Charter, especially as there is no threat to international peace and security. With regard to the progress on the ground, we commend the work carried out by the Government of the Republic of Haiti in connection with the road map focused on the security, justice, energy, education, health and agriculture sectors. Similarly, we commend its efforts to adopt a joint legislative agenda that undoubtedly demonstrates a commitment to democracy and stability.

During the visit of the Security Council, we received first-hand information on the situation in the brotherly country of Haiti, the preparation process for closing MINUSTAH and planning the transition to the new mission. The purpose of receiving that information was to explore how the Council could further contribute to the long-term stabilization of Haiti and collaborate with the Haitian people in their efforts to develop their country. The valuable information, which we received, must be used as input for refining the new mandate of MINUJUSTH in order to make it understandable, clear and more specific, especially with regard to the rule of law and reform of the justice sector.

Given that the new Mission is designed to carry out its work within a time frame not to exceed two years, it must fulfil a series of tasks and strategic goals during that same period. Bolivia would like to warn of the potential risk of not meeting the goals set out within such a short period of time because of a desire to encompass too many tasks lacking defined objectives. Such a flaw may counterproductively affect the work of the new mission.

With regard to the work of MINUSTAH, we congratulate the Mission on prioritizing its efforts so as to ensure a successful transition and for assessing its work, thereby leading to a review of the situation and the progress achieved thus far. That work is without any doubt reflected in the latest report of the Secretary-General (S/2017/604). We note that, before its final closure, the Mission must address the outstanding issues pertaining to the cholera situation, the justice sector and sexual exploitation and abuse.

At the same time, Bolivia emphasizes the importance of coordination between the new Mission and the United Nations country team so as to ensure that the responsibilities and tasks of other United Nations bodies, such as the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly, do not overlap. In that regard, we support the joint MINUSTAH transition plan with the country team in Haiti in coordination with the Government of Haiti, while always taking into account the priorities and needs of our brotherly country.

We reiterate that the United Nations has a moral responsibility with regard to victims of cholera in Haiti. In that vein, we stress the international community's obligation to help the Republic of Haiti overcome that crisis and reach the goal of building sound water, sanitation and health systems. During the visit of the Council, we heard from several stakeholders, including a cholera victim, about current concerns relating to the situation. We therefore call on the entire United Nations membership to join in the fight against cholera in Haiti and support General Assembly resolution 71/161 B, adopted on 13 July, establishes a trust fund for that purpose and calls on countries to voluntarily contribute their respective share of unencumbered balance for MINUSTAH to that fund. We urge the countries members of the Security Council and of the entire United Nations membership to shore up that fund.

Concerning, gender-based violence in Haiti, it is related to the poverty and social discrimination experienced by women. We urge the United Nations to remain vigilant in its actions so as to combat gender-based violence in Haiti, in particular sexual abuse and exploitation under the principle of zero-tolerance.

Bolivia recognizes the national ownership and the primary responsibility of the Government and the people of Haiti as they relate to all aspects of the development of their country, and encourages the new mission to provide logistical and technical experience in coordination with the Government, while respecting its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

In conclusion, I call on the Security Council to reflect on the intrinsic interconnectedness between peace and security and the basic needs of the population. If basic needs, such as health, education, water and sanitation services are not met, the road to lasting stability and development will be difficult, if not impossible, to achieve.

Mr. Biagini (Italy): I thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Honoré Braithwaite for her substantive briefing and her and her staff's commendable service.

Italy aligns itself with the statement to be made by the observer of the European Union.

In recent months, Haiti has continued its path towards consolidating its stability and constitutional order, thereby reaffirming the Security Council's decision to better adjust to the present needs of the country by withdrawing the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and replacing it with United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH).

As the Council witnessed during its mission last June, Haiti is at a crossroads. A constructive collaboration between the Government and the Parliament and an inclusive dialogue with civil society are now crucial to implementing the reform agenda jointly adopted by the executive and legislative branches, as well as for the development of a shared national vision for the country's future. We encourage the Haitian Government to continue on that path.

We welcome the start of a thorough assessment of constitutional review and emphasize in particular the importance of a consensual and effective reform of the electoral system. With the assistance of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), the Haitian National Police has achieved remarkable results, on which it must now build. We welcome the priority assigned by the authorities to its consolidation, which remains an essential pillar of security and stability in the country. Efforts must be redoubled to address weaknesses in the rule of law and justice system, with a special focus on the independence of the judiciary, the reform of the corrections system, the reduction of women's vulnerability and their increased participation in the political and socioeconomic life of the country. The United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) would rightly focus on those sectors.

Among the challenges still facing the country, allow me to point out the fight against cholera. We highly appreciate the Secretary-General's commitment to supporting the Government's efforts in that fight. We welcome the adoption last week by the General Assembly of resolution 71/161 B, which Italy co-sponsored.

Secondly, Italy remains firmly convinced that the transition between the two Missions is a due response to the evolution of the country's needs. Building on the results achieved by MINUSTAH, MINUJUSTH will have targeted tools that are adjusted to the present conditions on the ground and to the specific challenges being tackled by the Haitian authorities. That transition must be well planned and responsible. So far, the withdrawal of MINUSTAH has not affected the overall security situation and we invite the Secretary-General to continue to follow that process with special attention and to keep the Council duly informed.

It is essential to ensure continuity and to identify, as of now, a strategy to progressively transfer competencies to the country team, whose role will be strengthened and, ultimately, to Haitian authorities. We invite the Secretary-General to continue that planning effort on the basis of the integrated approach highlighted in his report (S/2017/604). I would like in particular to underscore the political strategy underlined in the MINUJUSTH priorities outlined by the Secretary-General. We fully share the pivotal role assigned to the Mission's political pillar and to its good offices, as well as the intention to put in place mobile and integrated Mission deployment throughout the country, in order to maximize its impact while at the same time keeping a light footprint.

United Nations action in Haiti attests to the need to ensure coherence between supporting the political process, keeping peace and promoting development and human rights. In that respect, in our view, Haiti represents a test and reference model of the Council's ability to handle a transition based on a recognition of the close connection that exists among prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, and comply with the criteria of effectiveness, peer mandates and a well-timed sustainable exit strategy. Such an effort requires the involvement of the entire United Nations system and the use of all the tools at its disposal to ensure peace, avoid relapses into conflict and trigger lasting development. In Haiti, we have the opportunity to show the value of that strategy, which is in line with the wider peace and security reform that Italy shares and supports.

In conclusion, Italy has a long-standing history of friendly relations and solidarity with Haiti and its people. We will continue along that path as a member of the Council, the United Nations and the European Union, and at the bilateral level.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of China.

I thank Special Representative Honoré Braithwaite for her briefing.

Currently, Haiti's overall situation is stable. The new Government has formulated a roadmap for national development and is committed to speeding up economic and social reform and to improving people's lives. The Haitian National Police has become stronger and is gradually taking over the responsibility of maintaining national security and stability. That has presented a new opportunity for the development of Haiti. China hopes that the parties concerned in Haiti will seize this opportunity to keep the current positive momentum, expedite the development of areas such as energy, education, health and agriculture, improve people's livelihoods, strengthen the rule of law, comprehensively implement the strategic plan for developing the National Police in order to reach its planned strength of 15,000 as soon as possible, thereby creating conditions that are conducive to improving the situation in Haiti.

China welcomes the recent unanimous adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 71/161 B in response to the cholera epidemic in Haiti. We hope that the international community will respond actively to the United Nations new approach to cholera in Haiti in order to help the country eliminate the epidemic as soon as possible. At the same time, there is a need to increase humanitarian assistance, support Haiti in enhancing its capacity in disaster risk reduction and prevention, safeguard food security and provide greater support to Haiti in its efforts to consolidate peace and stability, and implement the Sustainable Development Goals, as contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

China appreciates the contribution made by the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and Special Representative Honoré Braithwaite in promoting peace and development in Haiti. With the mandate of the Mission expiring on 15 October, the current priority should be a smooth transition so as to achieve an orderly withdrawal of MINUSTAH on the basis of maintaining stability Haiti and to ensure the successful deployment of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support after 15 October. China hopes that the Secretariat, MINUSTAH and the United Nations country team in Haiti will maintain coordination among themselves and enhance communication with the Government of Haiti so as to ensure the success of the transitional process.

Once again, the recent successful visit by the Security Council mission to Haiti sends a strong signal of the Council's attention to addressing the problem in the country. China is ready to work with other Council members towards a speedy realization of long-term peace, stability and sustainable development in Haiti.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

I give the floor to the representative of Haiti.

Mr. Régis (Haiti) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I would like to thank the Security Council for having kindly invited the Government of Republic of Haiti to today's meeting to share its views and observations about the Secretary-General's important report (S/2017/604) on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), on which the Special Representative has just briefed us.

On behalf of the Government of Haiti, I would also like to sincerely thank the Secretary-General for his commitment to the people of Haiti, as his report eloquently attests. As usual, it is an objective, detailed, professional and balanced document. Our Government

took careful note of and meticulously studied his observations and detailed recommendations. We are deeply grateful to him.

Members of the Security Council visited Haiti from 22 to 24 June, demonstrating their readiness to assist the Haitian people at this decisive juncture, replete with new prospects for stability, growth and development. The Government of Haiti warmly welcomed the mission.

At this pivotal time in the country's life, the Haitian Government welcomes the Secretary-General's overall assessment of the situation in Haiti. The country is indeed deeply committed to consolidating its democracy and to political and institutional stability. Much progress has been made at the security, political and institutional levels and in the areas of human rights and the building of the rule of law, as underscored by the Secretary-General. Mr. Jovenel Moïse's assumption of the presidency on 7 February to end a transparent and credible electoral process has indisputably marked a turning point in Haiti's political trajectory.

Whether it is the return to constitutional order, the establishment of a fully functional Parliament, the assumption of duties by all publicly elected officials at all levels of the governance system, consultations between the legislative and executive branches with regard to the implementation of critical reform programmes needed to modernize the State, launched by the Head of State, all observers agree that recent developments demonstrate ongoing progress towards establishing the rule of law and consolidating democracy in Haiti. The same is true of the Government's focus on security, justice, education, decentralization, transparency, accountability and the need to combat corruption. Those developments were highlighted by the Secretary-General and duly illustrate the new climate prevailing in Haiti. Without a doubt, the goal of creating a secure and stable environment, one of the major thrusts of MINUSTAH's mandate, has been achieved. The capacities of the Haitian National Police (HNP) have been significantly strengthened, as well as its ability to ensure law and order throughout the country.

In that regard, the Government welcomes the fact that the overall security situation has not been affected by the current withdrawal of MINUSTAH staff. This is proof, if further proof were needed, of the assumption of security functions by the Haitian National Police. The HNP has become a cornerstone of the national security architecture. This is a remarkable accomplishment by the Mission in all respects.

Also, at a time when the mandate of MINUSTAH draws to an end, the Haitian Government wishes to extend its gratitude to all countries that have, over the past 13 years, generously contributed and participated in its various military, police and civilian components. Notwithstanding the progress achieved at almost every level, the Government of Haiti is well aware of the myriad ongoing challenges and the magnitude of the obstacles hampering economic development and slowing down certain necessary reforms, which create genuine obstacles to the rule of law and the full enjoyment of human rights, including in their economic, social and cultural dimensions.

The Government has taken note of what the Secretary-General describes as limited progress in the functioning of the judiciary and the administration of justice and the residual shortcomings that have been noted, in particular in the judicial and corrections systems. In that regard, the views of the Haitian Government and those of Secretary-General are aligned with regard to the crucial importance of the judiciary's independence for building and consolidating democracy in Haiti and the continued development of the country.

In line with its general policy declaration, the Government, under the authority of Prime Minister Jacques Guy Lafontant, is working to strengthen the rule of law, which ensures stability and creates conditions conducive to private investment, which is so necessary.

Along the same lines, the Government of Haiti has noted the human rights concerns indicated in the report, including the often tragic consequences of prolonged pre-trial detention and prison overcrowding. Aware of the gravity of the problem and of the urgency of rectifying it, the Head of State set up a commission tasked with fully taking stock of the situation in order to find a prompt solution. The work of the commission continues and its conclusions and recommendations are expected soon.

In general, the Government wishes to reiterate its commitment to respecting, defending and promoting human rights without any discrimination, in accordance with its commitments and obligations under international and regional human rights treaties to which the Republic of Haiti is party.

The report also highlights a wide range of social and humanitarian challenges — the fragile economic situation, a gross 20-per-cent decrease in public investment, a slowdown in private investment, the vulnerable situation of repatriated individuals from the Dominican Republic and the growing vulnerability of Haitian households, which is reflected in the food insecurity that affects more than 2 million people. At the same time, the cholera epidemic is far from being contained, despite some significant recent advances in the fight against the scourge. In short, Haiti faces an urgent situation, which recent United Nations missions, including those of the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council, had had an opportunity to take stock of. Such a situation obviously calls for the adoption of urgent measures.

The Government of Haiti wishes to reiterate its call to all its cooperation partners to quickly and sustainably resume official development assistance flows, based on flexible financing programmes and mechanisms that not only respond to situations that have been observed, but also to establish the conditions to enable Haiti to transition from a state of economic fragility to that of sustained, robust and sustainable growth, in accordance with the wish expressed by the Secretary-General in his latest report.

With regard to the conclusion of the operations of MINUSTAH, the Government of Haiti welcomes the successful conduct of the plan for the complete and orderly withdrawal of the 2,370 troops from the military component of the Mission and the progressive reduction of its civilian and police components to authorized levels. At the same time, my Government attaches the utmost importance to the consolidation of the gains, especially in the priority areas that have been targeted, including strengthening the rule of law and the justice system, promoting and defending human rights and support for the development of the police.

Haiti will continue to work, in accordance with its needs and priorities and in the best spirit of consultation and cooperation, with United Nations bodies in defining the mandate of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH), its scope of intervention and the establishment of its strategic objectives. We are confident that the lessons learned from the 13 years of the mandate of MINUSTAH will be judiciously harnessed by MINUJUSTH. The search for solutions to the serious problems that have undermined the political, social and economic stability of Haiti for so long is critical. Our ardent hope is that MINUJUSTH will achieve the desired result by the end of its mandate, namely, on the one hand, significantly improve the trust of all sectors of society in the rule of law and in the checks and balances of democracy and, on the other hand, contribute to the country's long-term stability and economic development, to echo the words of the Secretary-General. Rest assured that the Government of Haiti will spare no effort to achieve this goal and to enable the initiatives of MINUJUSTH to meet our shared expectations.

In conclusion, let me take this opportunity to reiterate to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ms. Sandra Honoré Braithwaite, the warm congratulations of the Haitian Government — to which I join my voice — on her commitment and work in Haiti.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of Mexico.

Mr. Ruiz Cabañas (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to thank China for having convened this public debate. I would also like to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), my friend Ms. Sandra Honoré Braithwaite, for her briefing, and especially for her tireless work over the past few years. Mexico recognizes in her an esteemed and dedicated international civil servant. Her dedication to the Haitian people and her efforts to bring about the peace and development we seek at the Organization are exemplary.

The unanimous adoption of resolution 2350 (2017), which provides for the conclusion of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti and to which Mexico contributed a group of military observers, and the establishment of the new United Nations Mission in Support of Justice in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) in October is a natural consequence of the favourable development of the situation in the country. The strengthening of the rule of law and national institutions and the full-fledged pursuit of development with the support of the United Nations and the international community are signs of new times for Haiti, which is decisively assuming responsibility for its future.

We welcome the General Assembly's recent allocation of adequate resources to help MINUSTAH ensure a responsible, progressive and prudent transition to the new Mission, so as to avoid a security vacuum

and to lay the foundations for sustainable and lasting peace in Haiti.

The United Nations is not withdrawing from Haiti. Our presence in the country has evolved and, more important, our conception of peace and development has also evolved. The United Nations country team, which will continue to be present on the ground and from which we expect impeccable coordination, coherence, efficiency and transparency, plays a central role in supporting Haiti's economic and social development, the strengthening of its institutions and ensuring respect for human rights.

Mexico, as part of the Economic and Social Council's Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, has noted the willingness of President Moïse to promote a new national dialogue that will give way to a future of prosperity. The United Nations must support the Haitian Government and be sensitive to its priorities. We must encourage Haiti to focus its development — like all other States — on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development so that its people can reap the benefits of the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The United Nations has the unique opportunity in Haiti to demonstrate that we face new paradigms and a have a new way of working — that we have moved from conflict management to sustainable development coordination. In that connection, prevention and the links between peace and security and development are seen as concrete examples of the renewed framework of sustainable peace. The new focus of MINUJUSTH and its necessary coordination with the country team should be seen as an opportunity for coordination — both on the ground and at the Secretariat — of the efforts of the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and all United Nations agencies.

The United Nations has a moral and economic debt to the Haitian people. We have not yet found an appropriate response to the problems caused by the terrible cholera epidemic in order to properly care for the families of the victims and those affected. We can no longer postpone the implementation of a viable solution that will allow us to close this sad chapter of the United Nations presence in Haiti.

Mexico, together with Jamaica, co-facilitated General Assembly resolution 71/314, entitled "The new United Nations approach to cholera in Haiti", in which the Assembly recognizes the responsibility of the Organization to the people of Haiti with regard to the devastating effects the disease has had for the Haitian people. In that connection, we reiterate the call made by the General Assembly for Member States to consider the possibility of contributing the unencumbered balances and income credits of MINUSTAH to the United Nations Haiti Cholera Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund.

Before concluding, I would like to take this final opportunity to thank and acknowledge the commitment of all military and civilian officials who have been part of MINUSTAH over the past 13 years. In particular, Mexico pays tribute to all United Nations staff who lost their lives in pursuit of a better future for the beloved Haitian people. We will never forget them.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of Brazil.

Mr. Vieira (Brazil): I thank China for convening this very important debate. I also thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ms. Sandra Honoré Braithwaite, for her briefing and reiterate my Government's appreciation for her leadership. I also welcome the contribution of the Permanent Representative of Haiti, Ambassador Denis Régis.

I would like to start by commending Haitian political actors for their visible efforts to work together on a joint legislative agenda that includes more than 50 draft laws to reinforce State functions, ensure better territorial planning and improve the business environment in the country. The "Caravane du changement" initiative, aimed at revitalizing the agricultural, environmental and transport sectors, is a good example of how a broad-based national dialogue can forge a common vision around reform priorities that address the most pressing socioeconomic and political challenges. Brazil joined the Economic and Social Council's Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti in its annual visit to Washington, D.C., and to Port-au-Prince in order to examine ways to strengthen the partnership between the Government and the international community in support of the country's economic recovery and development. The importance of a responsible transition from the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) to the United Nations Mission in Support of Justice in Haiti (MINUJUSTH), based on realistic planning and Haitian ownership, was one of its main findings.

Brazil is fully committed to a smooth security transition in Haiti. Last month, the Brazilian component concluded the handover of security tasks to the national

police in the commune of Cité Soleil, Port-au-Prince, in close coordination with MINUSTAH's police component and while sharing the lessons learned in more than 10 years of operations in that area.

Although the Haitian National Police capacities have improved in recent years, it is important to highlight the considerable remaining challenges that this relatively young institution faces. The number of police officers is still insufficient, corresponding to only half of world standards for public security. Training and management also need significant improvement and support. We believe that the successful implementation of the Haitian National Police strategic plan for the period 2017-2021, just adopted by the Haitian Government, will be crucial during the transition from MINUSTAH to MINUJUSTH.

We concur with the observation in the Secretary General's report (S/2017/604) that MINUJUSTH's success will largely depend upon its ability to quickly forge a relationship of partnership, mutual understanding and cooperation with the Government on priority challenges that need to be addressed in the country. Bold Government leadership will be vital to consolidating the progress made thus far.

The reference to a "two-year mandate horizon" for MINUJUSTH in the Secretary General's report is not the exact language adopted in Council resolution 2350 (2017), which reads "a projected two-year timeframe" — a more flexible decision that is line with the conditions on the ground. Pre-empting the closure of a mission that has not been established yet may jeopardize its functioning and the implementation of its mandate.

We are glad to see that the Secretary General's report acknowledges the importance of quick-impact projects implemented by MINUSTAH in support of the Haitian National Police in recent months. We believe that this important tool should also be present in the section which describes the operations of MINUJUSTH. The planning under way should duly reflect and implement Council resolution 2350 (2017), including paragraph 11, which

> "[D]ecides that the rule of law efforts of MINUJUSTH, including community violence reduction efforts and quick impact projects, as appropriate, will be part of a strategy towards a continued, progressive transition to development actors".

Those projects have played an important role in supporting core stabilization objectives and will certainly be crucial to the consolidation of the rule of law in Haiti.

Brazil noted with appreciation the Council's visit to Haiti last month, which aimed at renewing support to the Haitian Government and people and gathering first-hand elements for a successful transition from MINUSTAH to MINUJUSTH. The 30 June briefing on the visit (see S/PV.7994) made it clear that, for several stakeholders, the fact that MINUJUSTH has been kept under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations fails to recognize the significant progress that has been achieved in Haiti during MINUSTAH's 13 years of operations.

Besides that, we could not help but notice that the issue of cholera was mentioned at every meeting as a serious concern that required attention. MINUJUSTH should be empowered to support the implementation of the new United Nations approach to cholera in Haiti. Brazil's own support to that approach remains steadfast. We will continue to collaborate with the health sector in Haiti, including through bilateral initiatives, such as the three hospitals and the rehabilitation centre that the Brazilian Government has supported with a budget totalling $90 million to date. As the United Nations reconfigures its presence in the country, we believe that Haiti could also benefit from the support of the Peacebuilding Commission and its Peacebuilding Fund.

I would like to conclude by reaffirming Brazil's long-term commitment to, and solidarity with, Haiti, as well as our confidence in the Haitian people's persistence and their determination to succeed in their quest for stability, democracy and prosperity.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the observer of the European Union.

Mr. Dabouis (*spoke in French*): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 member States. The candidate countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania; the country of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina; as well as the Republic of Moldova and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

I would first like to thank the Secretary-General for his report (S/2017/604), and his Special Representative

for her briefing. I also thank the Permanent Representative of Haiti for his statement.

On 13 April, the Security Council adopted resolution 2350 (2017), which extended the mandate of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) for a final period of six months. The resolution also laid down the legal framework for the transition to the United Nations Mission in Support of Justice in Haiti (MINUJUSTH), whose role will be to strengthen the rule of law and the police and to protect and promote human rights. MINUSTAH has played a key role in the area of security for the people of Haiti for almost 10 years, including ensuring security during especially difficult times such as, for example, the most recent elections. It continues to be a very important part of security in Haiti.

The prolonged institutional instability that has marked the electoral process in Haiti seems finally to be over. The completion of the process has enabled Haiti to elect a President transparently and credibly and by an ample majority. The National Assembly has been renewed, while a new Government has been formed with a programme that has the Assembly's confidence. We welcome the country's return to constitutional order in accordance with the will of the electorate, despite the enormous difficulties it has to deal with and its systemic weaknesses. This is a vital ingredient in ensuring that Haiti will be able to cope with its many political, economic, social and environmental challenges.

As has been the case for the past few years, the efforts of all concerned to ensure stability and security will be crucial to the process of consolidating democracy. A key element will be ensuring that consensus is reached on thorough reform of the electoral system if Haiti is to avoid new crises and regain the people's trust. In order to see that happen, the European Union will continue to be a faithful partner to the Republic of Haiti and remains committed to supporting it in consultation with its partners during this delicate phase, including through the necessary reforms.

We acknowledge the closure of MINUSTAH and its replacement by a smaller entity, MINUJUSTH, which will focus on supporting the Haitian National Police. In that regard, we have given serious attention to Security Council members' comments at the 29 June briefing on the Council's visit to Haiti a few days before (see S/PV.7994). In our view, the security situation in Haiti is still very fragile, and we therefore consider it vital to complete the work of strengthening and professionalizing the Haitian police. When the time comes during the transition period, we must be sure that the necessary continuity has been well prepared for. The security and well-being of citizens, and the stability of the country as a whole, depend upon it. In that context, we welcome the special attention that the Secretary General's report gives to rule-of-law and human rights issues, and we urge that they be revisited in greater detail with clarification of the stages and responsibilities involved.

In conclusion, I would like to once again express the European Union's appreciation for the contribution that MINUSTAH has made to security and to building democracy and the rule of law in Haiti. We also expect to see some critical reactions to various aspects of the Mission, since it is important to learn from the past if we are to improve our effort in the future. We welcome the preparations for the transition, which should be carefully designed to ensure continuity for our joint efforts. Now the sequence of events that will ultimately leave the Haitian State fully responsible for the security and protection of its citizens must be planned, detailed and launched. Special attention must be given to respect for human rights on the security front and to access to impartial justice for all. It is essential to ensure that the Haitian police and judicial system will be properly prepared to take over all the tasks currently being done by the United Nations Mission.

Together with the United Nations and the international community, the European Union will support the Haitian authorities in consolidating their commitment and efforts to secure a better future, in an atmosphere of peace, democracy and well-being, for the Haitian people.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of Colombia.

Ms. Mejía Vélez (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for the invitation to speak in today's debate at a crucial time for Haiti when, with the support of the Security Council and the Group of Friends of Haiti of the Organization of American States, of which Colombia is part, Haitians are taking a new step in the right direction in order to build an environment of sustainable peace, now with a special emphasis on justice. I would also like to thank Ms. Sandra Honoré Braithwaite, Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Haiti, for her briefing on

the Secretary-General's report (S/2017/604) and for the long years of commitment that she has shown to the Haitian people and to the United Nations in carrying out her duties.

On Friday, during the General Assembly's adoption of resolution 71/314, on the new United Nations approach to cholera in Haiti, of which my country was a sponsor, it became clear that the United Nations has a greater impact on the ground with regard to its ethical duty when it implements its mandates on the basis of precise, comprehensive road maps that take into account the specifics of each case, thereby enabling it to improve its allocation of resources and efforts designed to deal with conflicts, humanitarian crises and, in this case, the consolidation of peace. My country acknowledges the political process that Haiti has made, as the report and the Ambassador of Haiti describe, and which has unquestionably helped to bring an official end, starting on 25 October, to the activities of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), and to usher in a new phase that can now focus on support to justice through the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH).

Colombia firmly believes that the path towards peaceful, inclusive and prosperous societies goes hand in hand with the strength of their democratic institutions and the rule of law — a battle we will support Haiti in carrying out. The efforts undertaken to ensure that the Haitian people can count on a professional and more robust national police force enjoy the support of the Government of Colombia by way of our deployment of police, men and women, as well as the training provided in our country to women contingents of the Haitian National Police, to which we today commit to continue to support. Nevertheless, the next step must of course be to make progress in strengthening the judicial system in such a way that the path towards justice includes the establishment of a foundation conducive to improvements in the socioeconomic conditions of the entire population.

In its 2017 report, the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti makes it clear that it will continue to work so that there is greater coordination among all actors involved in addressing the challenges facing Haitians when it comes not just to cholera, but generally with regard to human rights, political participation and sustainable development, so that they can respond to the challenges they will face once MINUSTAH departs and the new mission begins, while also improving prospects for development.

The history of friendship and cooperation between Haiti and Colombia goes back to our own independence, when Haiti afforded Simón Bolivar an opportunity to restructure his troops and again take the path towards the independence of our peoples. We would therefore not be here were it not for that support. It is for that reason that I would like to recall the words expressed here by President Santos Calderón when we presided over the Security Council in 2011:

> "Haitians yearn to be heard. An international community that does not take Haitians' views of their problems into account does not serve Haiti." (*S/PV.6510, p. 3*)

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of Peru.

Mr. Meza-Cuadra (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of Friends of Haiti, which includes Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, France, Guatemala, the United States, Uruguay and my country, Peru.

I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on having organized this debate to discuss the latest report (S/2017/604)of the Secretary-General, issued on 12 July, on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), requested by the Security Council in its resolution 2350 (2017), adopted on 13 April.

The Group of Friends welcomes the presence of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Haiti, Ms. Sandra Honoré Braithwaite, and thanks her for her exhaustive briefing and the role she has played in supporting the political process in Haiti, the professionalization of the police and the maintenance of a safe and stable environment.

The Group of Friends also welcomes with satisfaction the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 2350 (2017) of 13 April. The Group of Friends acknowledges the important role that MINUSTAH played in promoting stability and security in Haiti. The Group expresses its deep appreciation and gratitude to the staff of MINUSTAH and to all Member States that have contributed to the Mission. Furthermore, the Group pays homage to those who were injured or lost their lives in the line of duty.

Strengthening the rule of law and democratic institutions, establishing a political culture conducive to democratic stability and improving socioeconomic conditions are key elements to achieve greater security, stability and prosperity in Haiti. In that regard, the Group of Friends is pleased that Haiti has continued to make progress in consolidating its democracy and stability. The Group of Friends congratulates the President of the Republic of Haiti, Mr. Jovenel Moïse, for the actions undertaken during his first 100 days of in office, including the "Caravane du changement" initiative.

The Group of Friends emphasizes the importance that national ownership, inclusion and the role that civil society can play to advance national peacebuilding processes and reiterates the vitality of the commitment of the Government of Haiti to strengthen the rule of law and to achieve greater progress in the justice and security sectors.

The Group of Friends welcomes the continued strengthening, professionalization and reform of the Haitian National Police (HNP) and welcomes the approval by Prime Minister Jack Guy Lafontant of the HNP strategic development plan for the period 2017-2021, as well as the approach of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) to the institutional and professional development of the HNP within the framework of the plan.

The Group of Friends stresses that there can be no genuine stability, peace or sustainable development in Haiti without democratic institutions and strengthened democratic processes. In that context, the Group recognizes the limited progress made in the performance of judicial institutions and in the administration of justice. The Group of Friends emphasizes the importance of strengthening the rule of law through the consolidation of Haitian institutions and reaffirms the role of MINUSTAH and its successor, MINUJUSTH, in supporting the Haitian State by promoting better governance structures, the transparency and independence of the judiciary, as well as the promotion and protection of human rights, in accordance with their mandates. In that regard, the Group of Friends encourages the Government of Haiti to make progress in the areas of justice and human rights.

The Group of Friends recognizes that the strengthening of national human rights institutions and respect for human rights, including those of women and children; due process and the fight against crime, sexual and gender-based violence; the end of impunity and prolonged pre-trial detention; and the promotion of accountability, are essential to guarantee the rule of law and security in Haiti, including access to justice. The Group of Friends stresses the importance of the Haitian authorities assigning the human rights portfolio to a specific Government ministry.

The Group of Friends welcomes General Assembly resolutions 71/161 A and 71/161 B, on the new United Nations approach to cholera in Haiti, which aims to renew the efforts of the Organization to eliminate the transmission of cholera and to address the suffering of its victims. The Group welcomes the decrease in the number of suspected cases of cholera and related deaths as a result of the increased response to cholera. The Group believes that efforts to eliminate cholera should continue and encourages Member States to contribute to the United Nations Haiti Cholera Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund to support the new approach, including reorienting to the Fund, where possible, the excess balance from MINUSTAH's 2015-2016 balance sheet. The Group of Friends also welcomes the appointment by the Secretary-General of Ms. Josette Sheeran as Special Envoy for Haiti, who will guide the full implementation of the new United Nations approach to reduce the impact of cholera and will support national efforts to achieve sustainable growth in Haiti by 2030 and the implementation plan.

The Group of Friends notes that, while significant progress has been made, Haiti continues to face major humanitarian challenges, especially due to the impact of Hurricane Matthew. In that regard, the Group welcomes the mission of the Senior Transformative Agenda Implementation Team of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, which made recommendations to the humanitarian country team and the Government on how to improve the effectiveness of the humanitarian architecture, optimize coordination between humanitarian and development actors, and adopt a more strategic approach to protection.

In addition, the Group of Friends affirms that progress in the reconstruction of Haiti, as well as Haiti's socioeconomic development, including effective, coordinated and commendable international development assistance, and Haitian institutional capacity-building in order to benefit from that assistance, is crucial to achieve sustainable peace and stability, and reiterates the need for security to be accompanied by sustainable social, economic and environmental

development, efforts in which the Government of Haiti plays a leading role, with the support of the United Nations country team.

The Group of Friends acknowledges the important contribution of MINUSTAH to stabilization in Haiti. It has initiated the implementation of a comprehensive withdrawal plan covering the military, police and civilian components. The Group of Friends welcomes the fact that MINUSTAH and the United Nations country team have finalized and adopted a joint transition plan as the culmination of the comprehensive planning process that began in 2014-2015. The Group of Friends reiterates its solidarity with and commitment to the people and the Government of Haiti in their aspiration for stability, reconstruction, recovery, economic development and the consolidation of democracy.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of Argentina.

Mr. García Moritán (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): I should like at the outset to thank the Chinese presidency for having convened this meeting.

Argentina aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of Peru on behalf of the Group of Friends of Haiti and would like to make the following additional brief comments.

We thank the Special Representative, Ms. Sandra Honoré Braithwaite, for her briefing on the most recent report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 2350 (2017) (S/2017/604) and reiterate our country's full support for her efforts.

We once again underscore the important work carried out by all staff of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), who, despite the tremendous challenges with which they are confronted, including devastating natural disasters, have fulfilled their mandate of helping Haiti to move towards sustainable peace and development. We also reiterate our congratulations to President Jovenel Moïse on his election and on the actions taken during his first 100 days in office, which are aimed at consolidating democracy and relaunching the Haitian economy.

Argentina would like to underline the achievements that we have seen in the run-up to the withdrawal of MINUSTAH and the establishment of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH), in particular the progress on aspects relating to the future implementation of MINUJUSTH's important mandate of assistance to the consolidation of rule-of-law institutions, the strengthening of the Haitian National Police and the promotion and protection of human rights in the country.

We support the transition plan and the political strategy drawn up by the Secretary-General, as described in the report submitted to us for consideration. Without prejudice to all of the aforementioned, it is our understanding that although resolution 2350 (2017) envisages a two-year time frame for the new Mission, the lifetime or duration of MINUJUSTH must be dependent on the situation on the ground rather than prescribed by rigid deadlines, thus avoiding any premature withdrawal that would imperil the achievements made throughout the 13 years of MINUSTAH's presence in the country.

Moreover, and, as is foreseen in the aforementioned resolution, we believe it essential that the new Mission include quick-impact projects which, according to the report, have benefited more than 2 million people during the fiscal year 2016–2017 by financing activities related to the rule of law, governance, public infrastructure and the supply of safe drinking water. Argentina believes that such projects, together with those aimed at reducing community violence, are vital in order to move forward in the building and sustaining of peace in Haiti, as well as to forge ties of cooperation and trust between the United Nations presence and the Haitian people.

Argentina had previously welcomed the appointment of Ms. Josette Sheeran as the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General charged with drawing up a comprehensive strategy for the implementation of the Organization's new focus on cholera in Haiti and with supporting Haitian efforts to meet the Sustainable Development Goals.

It is a great pleasure for me to share with the Council the fact that my country, Argentina, recently announced a voluntary contribution to the United Nations Haiti Cholera Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund. We are confident that the new Mission will contribute to the implementation of the aforementioned new approach on cholera.

The withdrawal of the Argentine military hospital last August and the ending of MINUSTAH's mandate in no way mean that we are cutting ties with Haiti, particularly given that in addition to continuing our bilateral cooperation, we will make available civilian police officers and specific capacities, particularly

in the framework of the Mission's mandate, which is aimed at strengthening and ensuring the professional development of the Haitian National Police.

On that point, and without prejudice to the sovereign decisions that Haiti might take on issues related to its own security and defence, we trust that the eventual planned deployment of armed forces in the country will not detract from the effective implementation of the recently concluded strategic development plan for the Haitian National Police 2017–2021.

I should like to conclude by reiterating Argentina's commitment to Haiti and paying tribute to the work of Ms. Honoré Braithwaite and to the work of all military, police and civilian staff of MINUSTAH. We wish also to honour the memory of those who have given their lives in service of its noble mission.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of Chile.

Mr. Barros Melet (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): We are grateful for the briefing that we have heard from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti, Ms. Sandra Honoré Braithwaite. We also welcome the presence here this morning of the Permanent Representative of Haiti, Ambassador Denis Régis.

Chile aligns itself with the statement delivered by the delegation of Peru on behalf of the Group of Friends of Haiti.

On 15 July, the ship *Sargento Aldea* arrived in Valparaiso, bringing home the last Chilean troops from the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and thus wrapping up Chile's more than 12 years of participation in the Mission. Although our military presence is coming to an end, the principles that inspired our involvement in the first place still hold true. Together with supporting security standards in the country, including through the strengthening of police capacity, our contribution to Haiti also focused on a broad array of tasks aimed at supporting communities, including the repair and rebuilding of educational establishments, the building of kindergartens and the financing of scholarships, among other areas of cooperation. Our support and cooperation, together with other actors and stakeholders and guided by Haitian priorities, will continue as we seek to further cement the achievements of the past 13 years.

The report of the Secretary-General (S/2017/604) details the major achievements in the stabilization of Haiti, including the headway made in the consolidation of democracy there. We congratulate President Jovenel Moïse on the actions taken during his first 100 days in office, including the "Caravane du changement" initiative, which, hopefully, will lay the foundation for a more equitable Haiti. We also welcome the creation of a legislative agenda in keeping with the way in which the Haitian people are coming together to pursue a common goal. These milestones represent an opportunity that we cannot let slip through our fingers if we wish to consolidate the principle of national ownership and foster the necessary synergies with the international community.

The support of the United Nations for Haiti will remain essential in the process of the consolidation and transition. We welcome the joint plan drawn up between MINUSTAH and the country team, which was arrived at through a careful planning process. We reiterate that we must be aware at all times of conditions on the ground, and in particular of the need for coordination among all stakeholders. We cannot allow the gains achieved on the path towards stability and development to be rolled back.

There is no doubt that the main humanitarian challenge facing Haiti on the path towards sustainable development is that of tackling the cholera epidemic. We welcome the recent adoption of General Assembly resolution 71/314, supporting the new United Nations approach to cholera, which was co-sponsored by my country. We hope that the adoption of the resolution will strengthen the United Nations Haiti Cholera Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund, and we appeal to the international community to contribute to the financing of said instrument.

Finally, it would be remiss of me to conclude without drawing attention to the tireless efforts of Ms. Sandra Honoré Braithwaite to bring the process to a successful close. Chile expresses once again its appreciation for her commitment and that of her team to the Haitian people and to the United Nations.

Finally, we reiterate Chile's commitment to Haiti and its people and reaffirms the importance of continuing to support this sisterly nation, which has sovereign authority over its own development.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.